

## North Somerset Education Welfare Service

The Education Welfare Service offer the following core services to all schools within the Local Authority area, free of charge:

- **Rigorously track local attendance data** to devise a strategic approach to attendance that prioritises the pupils, pupil cohorts and schools on which to provide support and focus its efforts on to unblock area wide barriers to attendance. Weekly monitoring of children who are not in receipt of 25 hours of education, monthly meetings with Health colleagues to identify children whose education is a cause for concern. Regular reporting to Children's Services Leadership Team and to the Children and Young People's Board, ensuring that attendance is a key priority. Ensuring there is a regular focus on school attendance at Education Excellence Partnership Board, Primary Headteachers across North Somerset (PHANS) and Secondary Headteachers in North Somerset (SHINS) meetings and engaging directly with MAT CEOs.
- **A School Attendance Support Team** which provides:
  - **Communication and advice:** regularly bringing schools together to communicate messages, providing advice and sharing best practice between schools and trusts within the area, by way of an "attendance network" for operational school staff three times an academic year, in addition to a monthly newsletter, "Attendance Matters" providing an update on all attendance related matters. A dedicated email for all enquiries relating to attendance [EWSReferrals@n-somerset.gov.uk](mailto:EWSReferrals@n-somerset.gov.uk)
  - **Targeting Support Meetings:** holding regular conversations with schools, using their attendance data to identify pupils and cohorts at risk of poor attendance and agree targeted actions and access to services for those pupils. Each school will have a named officer to liaise with, providing an opportunity to review whole school attendance policies systems and practices and discuss any children whose attendance is a cause for concern, focusing on children with the greatest need for support or intervention including those:
    - Pupils with under 90% attendance
    - Pupils on part-time timetables

Based on the discussion, support and guidance provided to determine the best approach in each case, including:

- Penalty Notice



- Education Supervision Order
- Prosecution
- **Multi-disciplinary support for families:** provide access to early help support workers to work intensively with families to provide practical whole-family support where needed to tackle the causes of absenteeism and unblock the barriers to attendance. Primary and Secondary Inclusion Panels held fortnightly, to support schools with advice and guidance on a range of strategies to support children to maintain their placements with multi-agency representatives including children's social care, Youth Justice Service, CAMHS and Early Help. These Panels also seek placements for children who have been permanently excluded. Traveller Advisory Teacher working with families to support the achievement and attainment of traveller children across North Somerset. Reintegration Officer supporting with transition back into school and at key transition points.
- **Legal intervention:** take forward attendance legal intervention (using the full range of parental responsibility measures) where voluntary support has not been successful or engaged with.
- Monitor and improve the **attendance of children with a social worker** through the Virtual School. Virtual School Headteacher, Jacqui Scott, with support the Extended Duties Officer support schools strategically with attendance for children with an allocated social worker, in addition to monitoring the educational progress and achievement of children in the care of North Somerset Council and have a focus on raising outcomes for these children and young people.

## Meet the team

Head of Service – Jaida Aldred

Team Manager – Georgia Humphrey

Senior Education Welfare Officer – Sara Durant

Education Welfare Officer – Jayne Pearce

Education Welfare Officer – Chloe Giuffrida-Sage

Education Welfare Assistant – Mandie Hill

The Education Welfare Service can be contacted at: [EWSReferrals@n-somerset.gov.uk](mailto:EWSReferrals@n-somerset.gov.uk)